



March 2, 2012

Washington State Legislature

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive
Olympia, WA 98507-7250

Dear Utilities and Transportation Commission:

We write this letter to express our concern regarding this year's proposed Pacific Power rate increase. After receiving feedback from our respective constituents, it has come to our attention that this increase has the potential to harm many local businesses that are currently suffering in this economy.

While we understand that a 1.1% increase is seemingly insignificant, consistent rate increases from the past several years have seriously disadvantaged local businesses. Since 2000, there have been nine separate rate increases. Just last year, the UTC allowed Pacific Power to increase their rate by a staggering 12%. With our current business climate, another rate increase provides for another setback. In a time when businesses are trying to get back on their feet from the economic downturn, another increase will make recovery even more difficult.

Additionally, we have found that this increase will adversely affect the agricultural sector of our districts. As electricity is and has been the only affordable option for these producers and processors to power their operations, another rate increase could cause them to explore more expensive options or shut down their operations entirely.

After reviewing the results from the UTC hearing in Yakima City on January 25th, it is apparent that this proposed rate increase is not being met with welcoming arms. Twelve comments were made in opposition to the potential increase, and zero was made in favor.

Again, while we realize that this is a small increase in comparison to previous years, businesses and agricultural producers are still trying to absorb past increases. We urge you to reconsider permitting Pacific Power yet another rate increase. Local businesses will undoubtedly be burdened and the overall business climate will suffer as a result, possibly extending the recession.

We truly appreciate your consideration of this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact any of our offices with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sen. Jim Honeyford
15th Legislative District

Rep. Bruce Chandler
15th Legislative District

Rep. David Taylor
15th Legislative District

Rep. Charles Ross
14th Legislative District

Rep. Norm Johnson
14th Legislative District